

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 3-18 have been amended.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Specification

The specification has been revised to be more clear, as requested by the Examiner. The abstract has also been amended to improve form. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to the specification for at least the above reasons.

Claims

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims have been amended merely to improve form, rather than to further distinguish over any prior art. This should be especially clear in view of the Examiner's acknowledgment of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the claim amendments should not be construed as narrowing scope within the meaning of *Festo*.

Conclusion

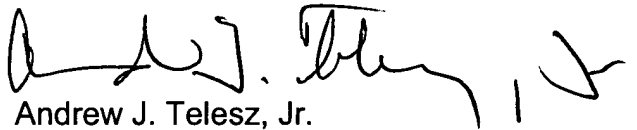
The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the claims of the present application to issue as including allowed claims 1-22.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area; to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCO & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Telesz, Jr.", followed by a stylized flourish.

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